



Troops honor fallen comrades during run

Story by Spc.
Samuel J. Phillips

MNC-IPAO

Approximately 1,500 servicemembers across Victory Base Complex participated in the Run for the Fallen Sunday, beginning at the Victory Stage at 6:30 a.m.

Runners had until 5:45 a.m. to register for the event and choose a name from a list of 4,682 servicemembers who had fallen in combat since the beginning of operations in Iraq to run in their honor.

"We were extremely pleased with the outcome," said Capt. Haley Dennison, Multi-National Forces -- Iraq operations officer and coordinator of the run. "Our goal was to run a mile



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lorie Jewell, Multi-National Force - Iraq command group

A group of airmen participate in the Run for the Fallen while carrying a hose.

for every name on the list, and with the number of runners I'm sure that we more than met that goal."

Dennison heard about

the run in the states and thought it would be a great event to allow servicemembers a chance to do something in honor of their fallen comrades.

"My husband was killed Nov. 15, 2006 while deployed to Iraq, so this run is very personal to me," Dennison said.

Dennison continued to say she was not the only one with a personal reason for participating in the run.

"A lot of servicemembers have lost family and friends in the war," Dennison said.

"I was running for Lance Cpl. Nathan McMillen," said Sgt. Christopher Law-

rence, a Soldier with the 10th Mountain Band and the first one to cross the finish line with a time of 24:04. "McMillen was an old friend of mine I graduated high school with. He joined the Marines in 2004 and came over here with the 1st Marine Division."

Unlike most runs held on VBC, the Run for the Fallen didn't have any prizes for the top finishers.

The only prize was the knowledge that, in a small way, servicemembers were able to honor those who have given their lives in the name of our country, Lawrence said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lorie Jewell, Multi-National Force - Iraq command group

Sailors run in formation while holding their unit guidon during the Run for the Fallen Sunday on Camp Victory.

Phone number migration will increase capacity



Photo illustration by Pfc. Eric J. Martinez

Story by Spc. Christopher M. Gaylord
13th Public Affairs Detachment

All VOIP phone numbers will be changed and reassigned to units throughout Victory Base Complex from Sept. 1-10.

The change will accommodate a move of more than 200 Multi-National Force – Iraq staff from the International Zone to

VBC. During the move, multiple units and offices already located on VBC will relocate within the complex, making room for the added MNF-I staff.

The new VOIP numbers will be reassigned in seven separate blocks and with different number sys-

tems to indicate the camp or area in which the unit will remain after the migration within VBC, said Maj. Neil Khatod, S-3 40th Expeditionary Signal Brigade. Each day, the numbers from one entire block will be changed.

The new numbering scheme will make assigning numbers easier, since they are based on location of the unit, Khatod said. Camps Victory, Slayer and Liberty will have separate numbering systems, and BIAP, Camps Cropper and Stryker will share a system separate from those.

The change in numbers is due to a new multi-million dollar switch being installed on VBC by the 335th Signal Command. The new switchboard will allow for twice the number capacity and a larger switch capacity than the tactical one currently being used.

“With the current numbering scheme, we’ve used 97 percent of our capacity, so we’re almost out of number space,” Khatod said. “On high

usage days, the equipment for the switchboard locks up.”

The new switchboard was donated by the Defense Information Systems Agency at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and will increase the number space from 10,000 to 20,000 to accommodate expansions on VBC.

The switchboard will include additional functions such as call waiting and the ability to assign one number to multiple phones, and will reduce call failures, Khatod said.

“The migration will, most importantly, affect inbound calls to folks like the Red Cross, Casualty Operations and the Fire Department,” said Matthew Bailey, CJ6 information technology project manager, MNF-I.

Approximately 8,500 VOIP numbers will be changed during the ten-day period, and after Oct. 1, all DSN numbers on VBC will be changed as well. About 1,100 DSN numbers will change.



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Unfinished palace reveals its history

Story by Pfc.
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The Victory Over America palace was named by Saddam Hussien while still in power after operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Construction on the palace started in 1997 using money Iraq was given through the United Nations "Oil for Food" program and was abruptly ended in 2003 when U.S. forces struck it with a Joint Direct Attack Munition from an F-15E.

The palace has 75 bedrooms and bathrooms, and a lower-level ballroom on both sides

The rotunda area of the Victory Over America Palace rivals the rotunda of Al-Faw and has poems inscribed on its walls. Above the entry way to this lower ballroom are the words, "Victory only comes from God," and on the ceiling, "God is the only merciful and compassionate one."

The Victory Over America Palace and the Victory over Iran palace, together, represent two of 70 palaces in Iraq. Victory Over America is one of eight presidential palaces.

Palace tours are held each Sunday and begin at the Camp Slayer PX parking lot at 12:45 p.m.



Photo by Cutis Stephens

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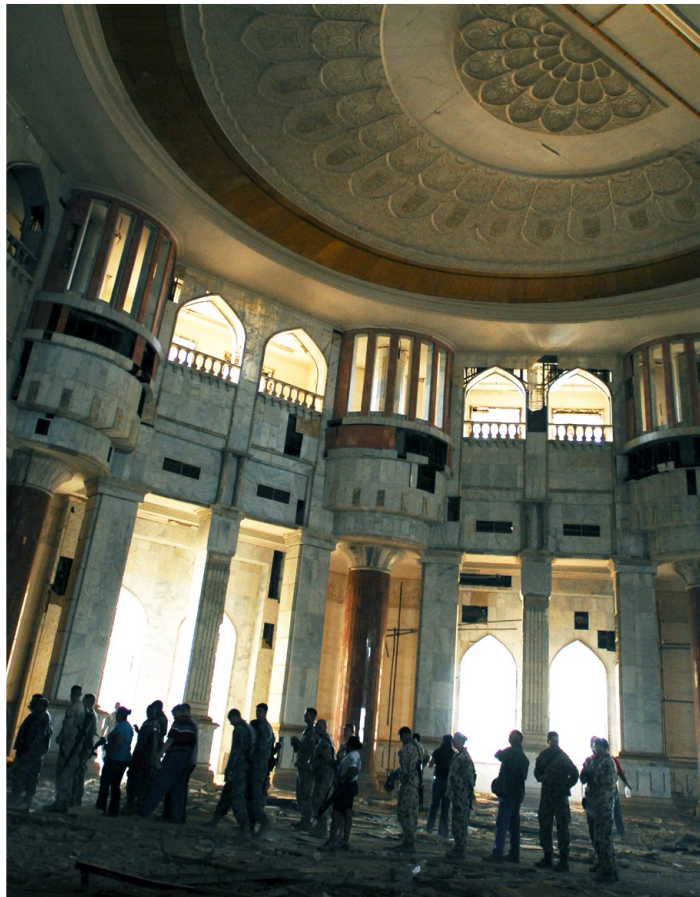


Photo by Pfc. Eric Martinez

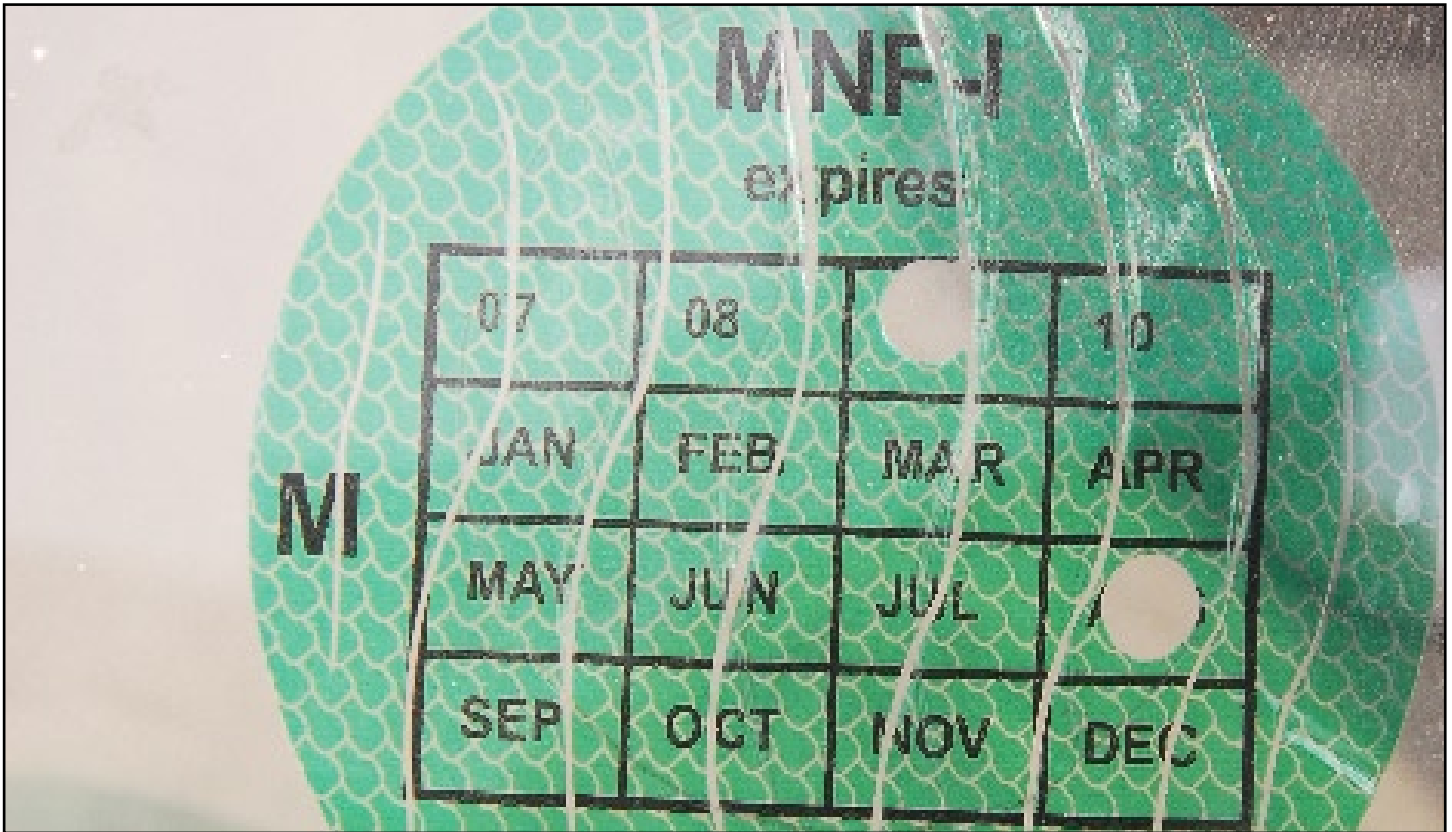
The third story "Football Room" is 100 yards long and 55 yards wide and was meant to be a gathering area for ceremonies.



Photo by Pfc. Eric Martinez

The presidential seating area on second tier level that overlooks the ballroom contains the words, "with God and Allah's help, we will be victorious," and, "Victory will be ours."

Vehicle registration ensures accountability



New vehicle registration, expiration stickers last only a year and should be placed on the lower drivers side of the windshield.

**Story and photo by
Pfc. Eric J. Martinez**

13th Public Affairs Detachment

A vehicle registration program has been initiated to gain accountability of all vehicles operating on Victory Base Complex.

The registration covers all leased and GSA non-tactical vehicles including all-terrain non-tactical vehicles such as Gators, four-wheelers and golf carts. Registration must be completed before Oct. 31.

“Registration was started to gain control and accountability of all NTVs on Victory Base Complex,” said Sgt. Maj. Bardrick McGuire, sergeant major, C-4, Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

Vehicles can be registered by commanders and command sergeant majors, major command G-4s, fleet managers, unit S-4s and appointed sergeants or above with a letter of approval.

Contractors can register their vehicles through their site managers or appointed representatives.

“Privately leased vehicles must be registered as well,” McGuire said. “VBC-wide registration will ensure that all vehicles have a license plate, fuel sticker and are added to the military police’s data base.”

In order to complete registration, all that is required is proof of ownership such as a theater-provided hand receipt, a civilian contract or a valid lease agreement. In addition vehicles must have proof

that they are safe in the form of a vehicle dispatch and safety inspection checklist.

“All agencies must understand that the registration is mandatory for even private and civilian contractors,” McGuire said “Don’t wait until the last minute so we can ensure that there were no mistakes in the process the first time.”

The VBC registration office is located at Motor Pool 7C next to the Strike Inn Dining Facility and is open Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Organizations with more than seven vehicles must make an appointment prior to visiting the office.

All required forms can be found at <https://mnfi.intranet.iraq.centcom.mil/sites/CampVictory/MayorCell/default.aspx>